

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

OMNIBUS INSULAR AREAS OF ACT OF 1996

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1332) to establish certain policies and responsibilities with respect to the administration of the Rongelap Resettlement Trust Fund, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1332

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Omnibus Insular Areas Act of 1996".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Temporary absence of officials clarified.

Sec. 3. Amendments to priority of bonds and other obligations.

Sec. 4. Commission on the economic future of the Virgin Islands.

Sec. 5. Repeal of separate ballot requirement.

Sec. 6. Insular funding clarification.

Sec. 7. American Memorial Park.

Sec. 8. American Samoa Study Commission.

Sec. 9. Hawaiian Homes Commission.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF OFFICIALS CLARIFIED.

Section 14 of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C. 1595) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) An absence from the Virgin Islands of the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor, while on official business shall not be a 'temporary absence' for purposes of this section."

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO PRIORITY OF BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ISSUE OBLIGATIONS.—Section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the government of the Virgin Islands to issue bonds in anticipation of revenue receipts and to authorize the guarantee of such bonds by the United States under specified conditions, and for other purposes", approved August 19, 1976 (48 U.S.C. 1574c), is amended—

(1) by striking "priority for payment" and inserting in lieu thereof "a parity lien with every other issue of bonds or other obligations issued for payment"; and

(2) by striking "in the order of the date of issue".

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to obligations issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established a Commission on the Economic Future of the Virgin Islands (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Commission"). The Commission shall consist of six members appointed by the President, two of whom shall be selected from nominations made by the Governor of the Virgin Islands. The President shall designate one of the members of the Commission to be Chairman.

(2) SECRETARY OF INTERIOR EX OFFICIO MEMBER.—In addition to the six members appointed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall be an ex-officio member of the Commission.

(3) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT.—Members of the Commission appointed by the President shall be persons who by virtue of their background and experience are particularly suited to contribute to achievement of the purposes of the Commission.

(4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel, subsistence and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

(5) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(b) PURPOSE AND REPORT.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations to the President and Congress on the policies and actions necessary to provide for a secure and self-sustaining future for the local economy of the Virgin Islands through 2020 and on the role of the Federal Government. In developing recommendations, the Commission shall—

(A) solicit and analyze information on projected private sector development and shifting tourism trends based on alternative forecasts of economic, political, and social conditions in the Caribbean;

(B) analyze capital infrastructure, education, social, health, and environmental needs in light of these alternative forecasts; and

(C) assemble relevant demographic, economic, and revenue and expenditure data from over the past 25 years.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT.—The recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the President, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives no later than June 30, 1998. The report shall set forth the basis for the recommendations and include an analysis of the capability of the Virgin Islands to meet projected needs based on reasonable alternative economic, political, and social conditions in the Caribbean, including the expansion in the near future of Cuba to trade, tourism, and development.

(c) POWERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

(A) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony and receive such evidence as it may deem advisable;

(B) use the United States mail in the same manner and upon the same conditions as departments and agencies of the United States; and

(C) within available funds, incur such expenses and enter into contracts or agreements for studies and surveys with public and private organizations and transfer funds to Federal agencies to carry out the Commission's functions.

(2) TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—Within funds available for the Commission, the Secretary of the Interior shall

provide such office space, furnishings, equipment, staff, and fiscal and administrative services as the Commission may require.

(3) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The President, upon request of the Commission, may direct the head of any Federal agency or department to assist the Commission and if so directed such head shall—

(A) furnish the Commission to the extent permitted by law and within available appropriations such information as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Commission and as may be available to or procurable by such department or agency; and

(B) detail to temporary duty with the Commission on a reimbursable basis such personnel within his administrative jurisdiction as the Commission may need or believe to be useful for carrying out its functions, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay or other employee status.

(d) CHAIRMAN.—Subject to general policies that the Commission may adopt, the chairman of the Commission shall be the chief executive officer of the Commission and shall exercise its executive and administrative powers. The chairman may make such provisions as he may deem appropriate authorizing the performance of his executive and administrative functions by the staff of the Commission.

(e) FUNDING.—The Department of the Interior is authorized to provide up to \$300,000 in each of the fiscal years 1997 and 1998 in technical assistance funding for the work of the Commission.

(f) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate three months after the transmission of the report and recommendations under subsection (b)(2).

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF SEPARATE BALLOT REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the unincorporated territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands shall each be represented in Congress by a Delegate to the House of Representatives" approved April 10, 1972 (48 U.S.C. 1712(a)), is amended—

(1) by striking "by separate ballot and"; and

(2) by inserting after the second sentence the following new sentence: "The Delegate representing the Virgin Islands shall be elected by separate ballot."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect January 1, 1997.

SEC. 6. INSULAR FUNDING CLARIFICATION.

The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 703 of the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant, as contained in section 1 of Public Law 94-241 (48 U.S.C. 1801 note), shall be construed as if "of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands" were stricken.

SEC. 7. AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK.

Section 5 of Public Law 95-348 (92 Stat. 492) is amended by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 8. AMERICAN SAMOA STUDY COMMISSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the islands of Tutuila and Manua, and certain other islands that compose American Samoa, were ceded by the chiefs of the islands to the United States by two treaties or deeds of cession which were submitted to the United States Congress on April 10, 1900, and July 16, 1904;

(2) American Samoa's status as an unorganized and unincorporated territory of the United States, and American Samoa's political relationship to the United States, are not clearly defined in any single document;

(3) there is a need for a comprehensive study and review of the historical and legal basis of American Samoa's political relationship with the United States, including—